

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus, comprising:

~~an acquisition device configured to acquire associated information corresponding to an occurrence of a present event using existing information corresponding to a past event;~~

an event occurrence detection device configured to detect [[to the]] an occurrence of ~~said present~~ an event;

an extraction device configured to extract attribute information and a keyword from a first document corresponding to the event;

a search device configured to search ~~said existing information corresponding to the past event~~ a database using the extracted attribute information and the extracted keyword to retrieve a second document having related matching attribute information having similarity to the attribute information of the first document, the second document containing the keyword ~~corresponding to the present event detected by the event occurrence detection device;~~ and

a display control device configured to display [[said]] associated information corresponding to the ~~occurrence of the present event that corresponds to the related information retrieved by said search device~~ second document.

2. (Currently Amended) The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said event occurrence detection device detects sending, receiving, or editing of an electronic mail as said ~~present~~ event.

3. (Previously Presented) The information processing apparatus according to claim 19, wherein said acquisition device acquires a title and a URL of a Web page containing said important word as the associated information.

4. (Previously Presented) The information processing apparatus according to claim 19, wherein said acquisition device acquires, in a predetermined timed relation, said associated information related to said important word selected by said selection device.

5. (Previously Presented) The information processing apparatus according to claim 20, further comprising:

update means for updating said database constructed by said database construction device when an update condition is satisfied.

6. (Original) The information processing apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said update condition can be set by a user.

7. (Currently Amended) An information processing method for an information processing apparatus for detecting a key word from a text file corresponding to an event that has taken place and displaying associated information corresponding to said key word, comprising:

extracting attribute information from an existing text file;

extracting existing keywords from among words contained in said existing text file;

computing weights for said existing keywords based on use of occurrence frequency in the text file, and acquiring associated information for an important keyword of the existing keywords having a weight higher than a predetermined threshold, the associated information being obtained by accessing a search engine on the Internet using the important keyword as a search term;

constructing a database by associating the important word with at least one of said attribute information extracted in the extracting step and said associated information acquired in the acquiring step;

detecting an occurrence of said event;

detecting an event keyword from said text file corresponding to said event detected in the event occurrence detecting step;

searching said database constructed in the database constructing step to retrieve said associated information corresponding to said event keyword detected in the event keyword detecting step; and

controlling displaying of said associated information retrieved in the searching step.

8. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium storing a computer-readable program that causes a computer to detect a key word from a text file corresponding to an event that has taken place and displaying associated information related to said key word, by performing the steps of:

extracting attribute information from an existing text file;

extracting existing keywords from among words contained in said existing text file;

computing weights of said existing keywords based on use of occurrence frequency in the text file, and acquiring associated information for an important keyword of the existing keywords having a weight higher than a predetermined threshold, the associated information being obtained by accessing a search engine on the Internet using the important keyword as a search term;

constructing a database by associating the important word with at least one of said attribute information extracted in the extracting step and said associated information acquired in the acquiring step;

detecting an occurrence of said event;

detecting an event keyword from said text file corresponding to said event detected in the event occurrence detecting step;

searching said database constructed in the database constructing step to retrieve said associated information corresponding to said event keyword detected in the event keyword detecting step; and

controlling displaying of said associated information retrieved in the searching step.

9. (Previously Presented) An information processing apparatus for displaying an animated agent on a display device and for displaying associated information related to a text file processed by a predetermined application program, comprising:

a processing detection device configured to detect, as an event, predetermined processing of said predetermined application program;

a key word detection device configured to detect key words from said text file processed by said predetermined application program corresponding to said event detected by said processing detection device;

means for computing weights for said key words based on use of occurrence frequency in the text file, and searching for said associated information for an important key word of the keywords having a weight higher than a predetermined threshold by searching a database for a previously processed existing file corresponding to said important key word;

an input device configured to input a command;

a command processing device configured to execute, in response to said command inputted by said input device, processing on said associated information; and

a display control device configured to display, in response to said event detected by said processing detection device, said animated agent onto said display device and changing a

manner of displaying said animated agent in response to said command inputted by said input device.

10. (Previously Presented) The information processing apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said display control device also displays text information as a script of said animated agent.

11. (Previously Presented) The information processing apparatus according to claim 10, further comprising an output device configured to output a voice signal corresponding to said text information displayed by said display control device.

12. (Previously Presented) The information processing apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said command processing device displays, on said display device, said associated information retrieved by said search device in an object form with respect to at least one of movement, storage, and deletion, in response to a display command inputted by said input device.

13. (Previously Presented) The information processing apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said command processing device stores said associated information in response to a storage command inputted by said input device and displays a list of the stored associated information onto said display device.

14. (Previously Presented) The information processing apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said associated information is a URL of a Web page and said command processing

device starts a WWW browser so as to access said URL of said Web page as said associated information in response to an access command inputted by said input device.

15. (Previously Presented) An information processing method for an information processing apparatus for displaying an animated agent on a display device and for displaying associated information related to a text file processed by a predetermined application program, the method comprising:

detecting, as an event, predetermined processing of said predetermined application program;

detecting key words from said text file processed by said predetermined application program corresponding to said event detected in the processing detecting step;

computing weights for said key words based on use of occurrence frequency in the text file, and searching for said associated information for an important key word of the keywords having a weight higher than a predetermined threshold by searching for a previously processed existing file corresponding to said important key word;

inputting a command;

executing, in response to said command inputted in the inputting step, processing on said associated information retrieved in the searching step; and

displaying, in response to said event detected in the processing of said detecting step, said animated agent onto said display device and changing a manner of displaying said animated agent in response to said command inputted in the inputting step.

16. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium storing a computer-readable program that causes a computer to display an animated agent on a display device and to

display associated information related to a text file processed by a predetermined application program, by performing the steps of:

detecting, as an event, predetermined processing of said predetermined application program;

detecting key words from said text file processed by said predetermined application program corresponding to said event detected in the processing detecting step;

computing weights for said key words based on use of occurrence frequency in the text file, and searching for said associated information for an important key word of the keywords having a weight higher than a predetermined threshold by searching a database for a previously processed existing file corresponding to said important key word;

executing, in response to a command inputted, processing on said associated information retrieved in the searching step; and

displaying, in response to said event detected in the processing of said detecting step, said animated agent onto said display device and changing a manner of displaying said animated agent in response to said command inputted.

17. (Previously Presented) An information processing apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising:

a grouping device configured to group said existing information into a group of existing information based upon attribute information of said existing information,

wherein said acquisition device acquires the associated information related to said group of existing information made by said grouping device as said existing information,

said search device searches for said group of existing information as said existing information having similarity to information corresponding to the present event detected by the event occurrence detection device, and

the display control device controls displaying of said associated information related to said group of existing information as said existing information retrieved by said search device.

18. (Previously Presented) An information processing apparatus according to Claim 17, further comprising:

a weight calculation device configured to calculate the weight of key words contained in each said group of existing information,

a selection device configured to select an important word among said key words based upon said weight of key words,

wherein said acquisition device acquires said associated information related to said group of existing information using said important word selected by said selection device.

19. (Currently Amended) The information processing apparatus according to Claim 1, ~~wherein said existing information corresponding to said past event is an existing text file and said information corresponding to said present event detected by the event occurrence detection device is a text file~~, the information processing apparatus further comprising:

a selection device for selecting an important word from among words contained in said ~~existing text file~~ first document; and[[,]]

~~wherein the~~ an acquisition device ~~acquires~~ configured to acquire said associated information by using said important word selected by said selection device as said ~~existing information~~ keyword.

20. (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

~~an extraction device configured to extract attribute information from the existing~~
information; and

a database construction device configured to construct [[a]] the database by use of at least one of said attribute information extracted by said extraction device and said associated information ~~acquired by said acquisition device.~~